Claims 1, 4, 12, 21, 25 and 28 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 21 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, Applicant has amended the claims in a manner which removes the typographical error. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 12, 21, 25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,864,992 (Okada) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,809,831 (Minari), and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0007179 (Ferlitsch). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern management of print job information. In one aspect of the invention, job log information related to a plurality of jobs issued from a client computer to an image forming apparatus is recorded or accumulated. The job log information is acquired from the client computer or the image processing apparatus, where the job log information includes driver information and port information. The driver information identifies a driver program, which is performed in the client computer and generates the issued job, and the port information identifies a port managed as an output destination of the issued job by the client computer. The driver information and port information are registered in a non-recording target database to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated in a final log. The driver information and the port information are acquired from the job log information. In another

aspect, a determination is made whether or not to accumulate the job log information in the final log, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the acquired driver information and the acquired port information is registered in the non-recording target database. In particular, the job log information determined to be accumulated is merged into the final log. As a result of this feature, it is ordinarily possible to accurately manage print jobs which are accompanied by a printout.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing method of recording or accumulating job log information related to a plurality of jobs issued from a client computer to an image forming apparatus. The method includes: an acquisition step of acquiring the job log information from the client computer or the image forming apparatus, wherein the job log information includes driver information and port information, the driver information identifying a driver program which is performed in the client computer and generates the issued job and the port information identifying a port managed as an output destination of the issued job by the client computer; a registration step of registering, in a non-recording target database, driver information and port information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated in a final log; a driver information acquisition step of acquiring the driver information from the job log information acquired in the acquisition step; a port information acquisition step of acquiring the port information from the job log information acquired in the acquisition step; a determination step of determining whether or not to accumulate the job log information in the final log by using the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the driver information acquired in the driver information acquisition step and the port information

acquired in the port information acquisition step is registered in the non-recording target

database; and a merging step of merging into the final log the job log information determined in

the determination step to be accumulated, wherein, in the registration step, the driver information

related to a driver used for outputting a PDF file to the client computer or an external device is

registered in the non-recording target database, and wherein, in the registration step, the port

information indicating that a job is output to a device which does not have a printing function is

registered in the non-recording target database.

Applicant submits that the cited references, namely Okada, Minari and Ferlitsch,

considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the

present claims. In particular, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of

a registration step of registering, in a non-recording target database, driver information and port

information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a

printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated in a final log; a

determination step of determining whether or not to accumulate the job log information in the

final log by using the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with a

determination as to whether or not at least one of the driver information acquired in the driver

information acquisition step and the port information acquired in the port information acquisition

step is registered in the non-recording target database; and a merging step of merging into the

final log the job log information determined in the determination step to be accumulated.

In contrast to the present claims, Minari discloses a host computer that transmits a

print job object to a printer, where, upon receipt of the print job object, the printer executes print

processes on the print job object. Once a print job object has been processed, the printer stores a

result indicating whether the execution of the print processes was successful or not. If the

execution was not successful, the print job object is transferred to a substitute printer. Alternatively, if the execution was successful, the printer checks whether there is a print job object to be processed by another printer. (See Minari, column 6, lines 51 to 61). If there is a print job object is to be processed by another printer, the print job object is transmitted to that printer. However, if no print job object is to be processed by another printer, the print job object is returned to the host computer. (See Minari, column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 3).

In Minari, a printer receives a print job object and determines if the received print job object is destined for the printer. If the print job object is destined for the printer, the print job object is stored in a print job accumulator 407. (See Minari, Figure 9, S902 and S903). When the print job object is ready to be printed, the printer reads the print job object from the print job accumulator 407 and performs the printing. In other words, the print job accumulator 407 is used by a printer as an internal print queue for accumulating all of the print job objects that were designated for the printer, regardless of whether the print job object was accompanied by a printout. (See Minari, column 5, line 65 to column 6, line 2).

In this regard, Minari is not seen to disclose or suggest registering, in a non-recording target database, driver information and port information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated in a final log.

In addition, Minari discloses that a determination is made when a print job object is received by a printer. (See Minari, Figure 9, S902). If the print job object is destined for the printer, the print job object is stored and processed. (See Minari, Figure 9, S903). In the case where the print job object is not destined for the printer, the print job object is transferred to another printer. (See Minari, Figure 9, S905). Similarly, Minari discloses a further

determination that checks whether the attributes of the print job object match with the attributes of the printer. (See Minari, Figure 10, S1002). According to Minari, each printer and each print job object stores attributes, such as paper size or color printing, that are used to determine compatibility between the print job object and the printer. (See Minari, column 4, lines 11 to 15). If the attributes of the printer match with the attributes of the print job object, the print job object is read from the print job accumulator 407 and is printed. (See Minari, column 6, lines 42 to 45). If the attributes do not match, the print job object is transferred to a substitute printer. (See Minari, S1002, S1003 and S1013). In other words, Minari merely determines whether a printer that has received a print job object is the intended recipient, for purposes of ensuring that the print job object will be processed by an appropriate printer.

However, Minari fails to disclose or suggest the features of determining whether or not to accumulate the job log information in the final log by using the acquired job log information, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the acquired driver information and the acquired port information is registered in the non-recording target database and merging into the final log the job log information determined in the determination step to be accumulated.

Okada and Ferlitsch have been reviewed and Applicant submits that nothing in Okada and Ferlitsch supplies that which is missing from Minari.

Accordingly, Minari fails to teach anything that, when combined with Okada and Ferlitsch, would have resulted in the features of a registration step of registering, in a non-recording target database, driver information and port information to specify job log information related to an issued job which is not accompanied by a printout as a condition to identify job log information not to be accumulated in a final log; a determination step of determining whether or

not to accumulate the job log information in the final log by using the job log information acquired in the acquisition step, in accordance with a determination as to whether or not at least one of the driver information acquired in the driver information acquisition step and the port information acquired in the port information acquisition step is registered in the non-recording target database; and a merging step of merging into the final log the job log information determined in the determination step to be accumulated.

In light of the deficiencies in Minari, Okada and Ferlitsch, Applicant submits that Claim 1is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 21 and 25 are directed to a server and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 21 and 25 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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